Central Intelligence Agency



OCA FILE See Misc SEO

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OCA 88-4039

The Honorable Louis Stokes
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6415

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of 13 December. Your interest in the issue of overseas security is always welcome.

With respect to your suggestion that the Security Evaluation Office not take on additional personnel at this time, we established last spring as our personnel objective being at half-strength by October (about 30 people) and then pausing to gain experience in this new mission. We reached that personnel milestone, we have reserved key positions for State Department people, and do not intend to bring other people on until the next steps have been worked out.

I have explored with Secretary Shultz various ways of implementing President Reagan's 1987 instructions to the Secretary of State and the Director of Central Intelligence on overseas security. Although we have clarified many points in the President's instructions to the apparent satisfaction of the Secretary, fundamental objections by the Department still exist.

Although Secretary Shultz and I continue to discuss this issue, it is likely that the validating, modifying or rescinding the 1987 directive must be taken up by President-elect Bush and Secretary-designate Baker after they assume office. The Intelligence Community is prepared to assist the Department of State with its overseas security responsibilities in any way the President directs.



I hope that the Congress will allow the new Administration a period of time to address this very important issue. Then, I hope that, together, we can proceed with the support of Congress to make the necessary improvements in overseas security.

Sincerely yours,

Is/ William H. Webster

William H. Webster Director of Central Intelligence

cc: Honorable George P. Shultz Honorable Dante B. Fascell

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R88-2063

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6415

December 13, 1988

Honorable William H. Webster Director of Central Intelligence Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Judge Webster:

Recently, the Committee staff was briefed by Assistant Secretary of State Robert Lamb and by ______ the Director of the Security Evaluation Office (SEO), concerning the status of the SEO. It is my understanding that you and Secretary of State Shultz disagree on how an independent audit of the security of overseas missions should be conducted and on other matters that go to the heart of the SEO. It now appears that only the new Administration can resolve these differences.

I wish to raise a note of caution with respect to this issue. My concern is that many in Congress will view the disagreement over this issue as a failure to address a critical security issue. I therefore expect that the 101st Congress will see efforts on the part of some Members to resolve this issue on the floor. Absent some early determination within the executive branch that satisfactorily settles questions on setting security standards for overseas missions and independently auditing compliance with those standards, I believe such Congressional efforts likely will receive strong support.

Accordingly, I have directed the staff of the Committee to work closely with the staff of the Foreign Affairs Committee to develop a joint legislative initiative which represents the views of both committees on this matter. Both Mr. Fascell and I have agreed in colloquy on the House floor that the President should decide such issues. If he does not do so quickly, however, Congress likely will step in. I believe that if that is to happen, it should be done by the committees of jurisdiction who have spent considerable time and effort in understanding security and counterintelligence issues and who provide resources to support programs in this area.



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I urge you and the Secretary to work closely and swiftly to seek resolution of these key issues. I further suggest that until some resolution is achieved that no additional personnel be brought on board at SEO. My impression is that SEO will have no opportunity to perform the kinds of joint audits it was established to perform until its charter or that of some other independent organization is agreed upon.

LOUIS STOKES

cc: Honorable George P. Shultz Honorable Dante B. Fascel Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/11/01: CIA-RDP90M00005R001300050023-3 ER 88-4678x/1

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

16 December 1988

Security Evaluation Office

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NOTE FOR: DCI

DRAFT 16 December 1988

- 1. Please note my recommended reply from the DCI to Chairman Stokes concerning his letter of 13 December.
- 2. The D/OCA will provide you with a final draft reply. I draw your attention to the thrust of the reply which is to frame the issue of the Security Evaluation Office as a matter to be decided between the new President and the new Secretary of State.
- 3. It is important to the future equities of the DCI, as well as the CIA Office of Security, that this not be viewed as primarily a dispute between the DCI and the Department.
- 4. I will prepare some recommended correspondence from you to Scowcroft and Baker early next week. This correspondence/will have the objective of alerting them to the Congressional consequences of continuing disagreement within the Executive Branch on the important issue of overseas security.

Your interest and 987 instructions

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Attachment: As stated

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D R A F T 16 December 1988

The Honorable Louis Stokes Chairman Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515-6415

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of 13 December. Your interest and advice on the issue of the President's 1987 instructions on overseas security are always welcome.

First of all, reference your suggestion that the Security

Evaluation Office not take on additional personnel at this time, we had established last spring our personnel objective of being at (about 30 pupe)

half-strength by October and then pausing for gaining experience in this new mission. We did reach that personnel milestone, we have reserved key positions for State Department people, and do not next steps have been fully the President and the Secretary of State address this issue.

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Although Secretary Shultz and I continue to discuss this issue, it is likely that the validating, modifying or rescinding the 1987 directive must be taken up by President Bush and Secretary Baker after they assume office. The Intelligence Community is prepared to assist the Department of State with its overseas security responsibilities in any way the President directs.

I hope that the Congress will allow the new Administration a period of time to address this very important issue. Then, my hope that together, we can proceed with the support of Congress to make the necessary improvements in overseas security.

Sincerely,

William H. Webster

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